



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**Patent and Trademark Office**

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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/222,123 12/29/98 RAY

R 6328-21

IMS2/0209

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EXAMINER

CROSS, L

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1743

DATE MAILED:

02/09/01

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

**Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks**

# Advisory Action

Application No.

09/222,123

Applicant(s)

Ray et al

Examiner

LaToya Cross

Group Art Unit

1743



THE PERIOD FOR RESPONSE: [check only a) or b)]

- a) ☒ expires 4 months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
- b) ☐ expires either three months from the mailing date of the final rejection, or on the mailing date of this Advisory Action, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for the response expire later than six months from the date of the final rejection.

Any extension of time must be obtained by filing a petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a), the proposed response and the appropriate fee. The date on which the response, the petition, and the fee have been filed is the date of the response and also the date for the purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. Any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.17 will be calculated from the date of the originally set shortened statutory period for response or as set forth in b) above.

- ☐ Appellant's Brief is due two months from the date of the Notice of Appeal filed on \_\_\_\_\_ (or within any period for response set forth above, whichever is later). See 37 CFR 1.191(d) and 37 CFR 1.192(a).

Applicant's response to the final rejection, filed on Jan 26, 2001 has been considered with the following effect, but is NOT deemed to place the application in condition for allowance:

- ☒ The proposed amendment(s):
- ☐ will be entered upon filing of a Notice of Appeal and an Appeal Brief.
- ☒ will not be entered because:
- ☐ they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search. (See note below).
- ☐ they raise the issue of new matter. (See note below).
- ☐ they are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal.
- ☒ they present additional claims without cancelling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☒ Applicant's response has overcome the following rejection(s):  
The rejection of claims 1 and 19 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph

- ☐ Newly proposed or amended claims \_\_\_\_\_ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment cancelling the non-allowable claims.

- ☒ The affidavit, exhibit or request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because:  
Applicants argue that the device of Bahl et al does not disclose drying of a liquid sample. This is Applicants' intended use of the device, which is given no patentable weight. Applicants also argue that there is no disclosure of a "means ..."

- ☐ The affidavit or exhibit will NOT be considered because it is not directed SOLELY to issues which were newly raised by the Examiner in the final rejection.

- ☒ For purposes of Appeal, the status of the claims is as follows (see attached written explanation, if any):

Claims allowed: noneClaims objected to: noneClaims rejected: 1-12 and 19-21

- ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ has ☐ has not been approved by the Examiner.

- ☐ Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_

- ☒ Other ... for facilitating removal of at least a portion of the collection pad from the strip...  
Applicants' specification discloses an aperture or opening which serves to facilitate removal of a portion of the collection pad. It is submitted that the apertures of Bahl et al are suitable to serve the same function.

Jill Warden  
Supervisory Patent Examiner  
Technology Center 1700